

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of claims in this application.

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Withdrawn) Use of a protein to modulate the viscosity of a composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s), wherein said protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, whey protein, casein, soy protein, pea protein, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk proteins, and hydrolysates thereof.

20. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 19, wherein said viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, pectin, beta-glucan, mucilage, and carrageenan.

21. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 20, wherein said gum is at least one of konjac gum, locust bean gum, tare bean gum, gum tragacanth, karaya gum, xanthan gum, arable gum, guar gum, and gellan gum.

22. (Currently Amended): A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s),

wherein said one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) is selected from the group consisting of agar, alginates, carubin, pectin, beta-glucan, carrageenan, furcellaran, arabinogalactan, pectin and its derivatives, cellulose and its derivatives, scleroglucan, psyllium and gums; and

wherein said one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) the protein is moderately hydrolyzed and is selected from the group consisting of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, whey protein, casein, soy protein, pea protein, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein and combinations thereof; and

wherein said one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) has the ability to lower the viscosity of viscous soluble fibers in the composition to less than about 500 mPas at room temperature;

23. (Cancelled)
24. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 22, wherein the weight ratio of said fiber: to said protein is from about 0.01:1 to about 20:1.
25. (Currently Amended) The composition of claims 22, ~~comprising~~ wherein the weight of said viscous soluble fiber(s) is about 1% to about 10% by weight of viscous soluble fibers, based on the total weight of the composition.
26. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 22, wherein said one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) ~~fiber~~ is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan.
27. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 26, wherein said gum is at least one of konjac gum, locust bean gum, tare bean gum, gum tragacanth, karaya gum, xanthan gum, arabic gum, guar gum, and gellan gum.
28. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 22, wherein the composition is in form of a drink.
29. (Withdrawn) Use of a composition of claim 22 for the manufacture of a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level.
30. (Currently Amended) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), ~~wherein the composition has a viscosity of less than about 500 mPas at room temperature and~~ said one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) is selected from the group consisting of agar, alginates, carubin, pectin, beta-glucan, carrageenan, furcellaran, arabinogalactan, pectin and its derivatives, cellulose and its derivatives, scleroglucan, psyllium and gums; and

said one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) ~~wherein the protein~~ is moderately hydrolyzed and is selected from the group consisting of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, whey protein, casein, soy protein, pea protein, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein and combinations thereof; and

wherein said one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) has the ability to lower the viscosity of the viscous soluble fibers in the composition to less than about 500 mPas at room temperature

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 30, wherein the weight ratio of said fiber: said protein is from about 0.01:1 to about 20:1.

33. (Currently Amended) The composition of claims 30, ~~comprising~~ wherein the weight of said viscous soluble fiber(s) is about 1% to about 10% by weight of viscous soluble fibers, based on the total weight of the composition.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 30, wherein said one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan.

36. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 35, wherein said gum is at least one of konjac gum, locust bean gum, tare bean gum, gum tragacanth, karaya gum, xanthan gum, waft gum, guar gum, and gellan gum.

37. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 30, wherein the composition is in form of a drink.

38. (Withdrawn) Use of a composition of claim 30 for the manufacture of a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level.

39. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan, and the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, and hydrolysates thereof.

40. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 39 wherein the composition is in form of a drink.

41. (Withdrawn) Use of a composition of claim 39 for the manufacture of a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level.

42-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Withdrawn) Use of a composition of claim 42 for the manufacture of a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level.

45. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, pea protein, and hydrolysates thereof, with the proviso that the composition does not comprise inulin.

46. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 45 wherein the composition is in form of a drink.

47. (Withdrawn) Use of a composition of claim 45 for the manufacture of a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level.

48. (Withdrawn) A method of treating and/or preventing metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes, and/or of lowering blood cholesterol level in a mammal in need of such a treatment comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a composition selected from the group consisting of:

a) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s);

b) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), said composition having a viscosity of less than about 500 mPa·s at room temperature;

c) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), said composition having a ratio of said fiber:said protein is from about 0.01:1 to about 20:1;

d) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), said composition having about 1% to about 10% by weight of viscous soluble fibers, based on the total weight of the composition;

e) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), wherein said fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan;

f) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), wherein said fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan and wherein said gum is at least one of konjac gum, locust bean gum, tare bean gum, gum tragacanth, karaya gum, xanthan gum, arabic gum, guar gum, and gellan gum;

g) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), wherein the composition is in form of a drink;

h) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), for a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level;

i) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s);

j) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fibers) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), said composition having a viscosity of less than about 500 mPa·s at room temperature;

k) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein the ratio of said fiber:said protein is from about 0.01:1 to about 20:1;

l) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) comprising about 1% to about 10% by weight of viscous soluble fibers, based on the total weight of the composition;

m) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein said protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, whey protein, casein, soy protein, pea protein, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof;

n) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein said fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan;

o) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein said gum is at least one of konjac gum, locust bean gum, tare bean gum, gum tragacanth, karaya gum, xanthan gum, arabic gum, guar gum, and gellan gum;

p) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein the composition is in form of a drink;

q) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) for the manufacture of a

medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level;

r) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-gluten, and the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, and hydrolysates thereof;

s) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering proteins) wherein the viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan, and the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, and hydrolysates thereof wherein the composition is in form of a drink;

t) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan, and the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, and hydrolysates thereof for a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level;

u) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof;

v) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof wherein the composition is in form of a drink;

w) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof for a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level;

x) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein,

soy protein, pea protein, and hydrolysates thereof, with the proviso that the composition does not comprise inulin; and

y) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, pea protein, and hydrolysates thereof, with the proviso that the composition does not comprise inulin wherein the composition is in form of a drink.

49. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein said mammal is a human.

50. (Withdrawn) A method for providing viscous soluble fibers to a mammal in need of such fibers comprising administering to said mammal a composition selected from the group consisting of:

a) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s);

b) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), said composition having a viscosity of less than about 500 mPa·s at room temperature;

c) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), said composition having a ratio of said fiber:said protein is from about 0.01:1 to about 20:1;

d) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), said composition having about 1% to about 10% by weight of viscous soluble fibers, based on the total weight of the composition;

e) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), wherein said fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan;

f) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), wherein said fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan and wherein said gum is at least one of konjac gum, locust bean gum, fava bean gum, gum tragacanth, karaya gum, xanthan gum, arabic gum, guar gum, and gellan gum;



g) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), wherein the composition is in form of a drink;

h) A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), for a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level;

i) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s);

j) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s), said composition having a viscosity of less than about 500 mPa·s at room temperature;

k) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein the ratio of said fiber:said protein is from about 0.01:1 to about 20:1;

l) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) comprising about 1% to about 10% by weight of viscous soluble fibers, based on the total weight of the composition;

m) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein said protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, whey protein, casein, soy protein, pea protein, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof;

n) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein said fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan;

o) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein said gum is at least one of konjac gum, locust bean gum, tare bean gum, gum tragacanth, karaya gum, xanthan gum, arabic gum, guar gum, and gellan gum;

p) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein the composition is in form of a drink;

q) A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) for the manufacture of a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level;

r) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan, and the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, and hydrolysates thereof;

s) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan, and the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, and hydrolysates thereof wherein the composition is in form of a drink;

t) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan, and the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, and hydrolysates thereof for a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level;

u) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof;

v) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof wherein the composition is in form of a drink;

w) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates

thereof for a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level;

x) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering proteins) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, pea protein, and hydrolysates thereof, with the proviso that the composition does not comprise inulin; and

y) A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity lowering proteins) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, pea protein, and hydrolysates thereof, with the proviso that the composition does not comprise inulin wherein the composition is in form of a drink.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50, wherein said mammal is a human.

52. (New) The composition of claim 22, wherein said one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) fiber is beta-glucan.

53. (New) The composition of claim 52, wherein said beta-glucan is oat beta-glucan.

54. (New) The composition of claim 30, wherein said one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) is beta-glucan.

55. (New) The composition of claim 54, wherein said beta-glucan is oat beta-glucan.